

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS), said Web site using Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), said method comprising the steps of:

in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

issuing load balancing instructions to said NCS by passing said load balancing instructions directly to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, including the steps of:

including directives that must be obeyed by said NCS; and

in case that ~~determining whether~~ a filter is needed to limit a scope of application of said directives and in case of a positive determination, including the filter; receiving said load balancing instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt, wherein every server out of said plurality of individual servers is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions and wherein the any one server is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions that apply to any of the plurality of individual servers.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said directives includes:

flow-control directives;

sharing directives; and

NCS-queuing directives.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein said flow-control directives include:

an increase-rate directive to require said NCS to increase a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;

a decrease-rate directive to require said NCS to decrease a rate at which requests to said any one server are sent;

an increase-window directive to require said NCS to increase a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server; and

a decrease-window directive to require said NCS to decrease a number of jobs allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein said sharing directives include:

a share directive aimed at enabling a sharing of information from a particular source that is external to a network that includes the plurality of individual servers and the NCS within all members of said plurality of individual servers and said NCS by depositing an HTTP header in

the NCS that is added to all subsequent requests having a matching filter that corresponds to the source that are issued from the NCS to any server; and

a clear directive aimed at clearing a previous said information sharing.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 wherein said NCS-queuing directives include:

a lock directive aimed at locking resources identified by said filter to prevent service of the resources from being performed by any of the plurality of individual servers; and

an unlock directive aimed at releasing previously locked said resources.

7. (Previously Presented) A system, in particular a Network Control Scheduler (NCS) for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of individual servers, said Web site using Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), comprising:

means adapted for receiving load balancing instructions issued in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers, all of the plurality of individual servers being adapted to issue the load balancing instructions directly to the NCS, said load balancing instructions including directives that must be obeyed by said NCS; and a filter to limit a scope of application of said directives;

means adapted for complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt,

wherein the means for complying is adapted to comply with load balancing instructions that apply to a second server out of the plurality of individual servers.

8. (Currently Amended) In a network, the network having a plurality of individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS), a computer readable medium for enhancing load controlling of a Web site that uses Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), comprising instructions for causing a computer system to perform the following steps:

in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

issuing load balancing instructions directly to said NCS by passing said load balancing instructions to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, including the steps of:

including, in the NCS-control HTTP header, directives that must be obeyed by said NCS; and

including, in the NCS-control HTTP header, a filter to limit a scope of application of said directives;

receiving said load balancing instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and
complying with said load balancing instructions upon receipt,

wherein ~~the any one~~ every server out of said plurality of individual servers is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions and wherein the any one server is adapted to issue the load balancing instructions that apply to any of the plurality of individual servers.